In the Right Direction.

A friend, earnest in his concern for the progress and prosperity of Staunton, and resentful of anything that reflects upon the enterprise of our people, handed us the following list of improvements which have been inaugurated in Staunton within the past two years :

Electric light plant.
Staunton Extract Works;
Staunton Ice Factory;
Staunton Shoe Factory;
Staunton Nursery Company;
Staunton Furniture Company;
Staunton Bottling Company;
Staunton Medical Company;
Y. M. C. A. Building;
United Brethren Church;
Lutheran Church; and various private residences.

These things, our friend contends, do not indicate that Staunton is a dead town. The people have been going on quietly with their improvements and not pretending to anything like a boom. But the fact remains that they are progressing and progressing in a healthy line. The grumblers, nevertheless, will have their say. If half dozen industrial enterprises, related to the iron interest, and the Staunton and West Augusta Railroad were assured, they would then grumble because there would be too much—the evidence of recklessness, and that somebody was going to "burst." Well, the grumblers are a necessary evil. We must have them, it seems. They are essential to civilization to show by contrast the march of enterprise and the results of energy and endeavor.

Recent indications evidence that we are moving in the right direction—certainly, it is true that we were moving. Events point in the right channel, and it will not be long before still more encouraging manifestations of public spirit is apparent. Staunton is one of the best localities in the entire South for an industrial centre. We have everything to invite capital if the facts were known abroad. We are in the centre of a great mineral district.—The city is the natural trading point for an extensive range of country, abounding ing in the best of timber, and cattle, sheep, wool, farm products of all kinds, minerals of almost every description, contiguous to furnaces, and rail facilities for reaching every portion of the country.—What is wanting is a practical appreciation of these facts—a full comprehension of the advantages we possess and the opportunities presented. We have the necessary capital for a solid start, if those who possess it, could be aroused to the importance of its employment in such enterprises. With a start, the manifestation of a purpose to do what we can—others would come to our aid, and soon have healthy industrial plants established, giving employment to labor and diffusing the earnings throughout all channels of trade.

We believe the time is not distant when the conditions which surround us will be appreciated by our people and availed of to infuse new life and progress into the community, and make Staunton, what it should be, an industrial centre of large and lucrative proportions.